

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

SECURITIES INVESTOR PROTECTION
CORPORATION,

Plaintiff,

v.

BERNARD L. MADOFF INVESTMENT
SECURITIES LLC,

Defendant.

In re:

BERNARD L. MADOFF,

Debtor.

Adv. Pro. No. 08-1789 (CGM)

SIPA Liquidation

(Substantively Consolidated)

**APPLICATION OF MONFRINI BITTON KLEIN AS SPECIAL
COUNSEL TO THE TRUSTEE FOR A RELEASE OF A PORTION OF FEES
PREVIOUSLY HELD FOR THE PRIOR COMPENSATION PERIODS**

Monfrini Bitton Klein (“MBK”), special counsel for Irving H. Picard (the “Trustee”), Trustee for the liquidation of the business of Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC (“BLMIS” or “Debtor”) under the Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970, 15 U.S.C. §§ 78aaa *et seq.* (“SIPA”), and Bernard L. Madoff, submits this Application for release of a portion of the previously held back legal fees (“Holdback”) in the amount of \$5,870.25 for prior compensation periods.

I. BACKGROUND

1. On December 15, 2008, Judge Stanton of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, upon application filed on the same date by the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (“SIPC”), entered an order (the “Decree Order”) calling for the liquidation of the business of the Debtor in accordance with SIPA and by Paragraph II of the

Decree Order, the Trustee was appointed as the trustee for the liquidation of the Debtor's business.

2. The Debtor's liquidation proceeding was removed to this Court pursuant to SIPA § 78eee(b)(4), and, to the extent consistent with the provisions of SIPA, is being conducted as though it were a case under chapters 1, 3, and 5 and subchapters I and II of chapter 7 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code") pursuant to SIPA § 78fff(b).

3. On April 14, 2020, this Court entered an order approving the Trustee's motion to retain MBK as special counsel to the Trustee in Geneva, Switzerland.

4. The Trustee's motion to retain MBK established a fee arrangement pursuant to which MBK agreed to a fee reduction in the amount of 10%. MBK also agreed to an additional holdback of fees in the amount of 20%.

II. RELEASE OF THE HOLDBACK

5. For prior compensation periods, the amount of the Holdback for MBKs's fees is \$11,740.49. MBK seeks a release of the Holdback in the amount of \$5,870.25 upon the support of SIPC.

6. SIPC has advised that it will file a recommendation in support of the fees and expenses in this Application and the release of the Holdback in the amount of \$5,870.25 for MBK.

7. Hence, MBK respectfully requests that this Court authorize the release of the Holdback payment to MBK in the amount of \$5,870.25, as supported by SIPC.

III. GENERAL MATTERS

8. All of the professional services for which compensation is requested herein were performed by MBK for and on behalf of the Trustee and not on behalf of any other person or entity.

9. No agreement or understanding exists between MBK and any other person for sharing compensation received in connection with this case nor has any other person or entity agreed to provide MBK with compensation for the legal services described herein.

10. Section 78eee(b)(5)(A) of SIPA provides in pertinent part that, upon appropriate application and after a hearing, “[t]he court shall grant reasonable compensation for services rendered and reimbursement for proper costs and expenses incurred . . . by a trustee, and by the attorney for such a trustee.” Section 78eee(b)(5)(C) of SIPA specifically establishes SIPC’s role in connection with applications for compensation and the consideration the Court should give to SIPC’s recommendation concerning fees. That section provides as follows:

In any case in which such allowances are to be paid by SIPC without reasonable expectation of recoupment thereof as provided in this chapter and there is no difference between the amounts requested and the amounts recommended by SIPC, the court shall award the amounts recommended by SIPC. In determining the amount of allowances in all other cases, the court shall give due consideration to the nature, extent, and value of the services rendered, and shall place considerable reliance on the recommendation of SIPC.

SIPA § 78eee(b)(5)(C).

11. To the extent the general estate is insufficient to pay such allowances as an expense of administration, SIPA § 78eee(b)(5)(E) requires SIPC to advance the funds necessary to pay the compensation of MBK (*see* SIPA § 78fff-3(b)(2)).

12. The Trustee has determined, at this time, that he has no reasonable expectation that the general estate will be sufficient to make a distribution to general creditors or pay administrative expenses. The Trustee has been advised by SIPC that it concurs in this belief of the Trustee. Accordingly, any fees and expenses allowed by this Court will be paid from advances by SIPC without any reasonable expectation by SIPC of recoupment thereof.

13. Therefore, with respect to this Application, MBK requests that consistent with section 78eee(b)(5)(C) of SIPA, the Court “shall award the amounts recommended by SIPC.”

See In re Bell & Beckwith, 112 B.R. 876 (Bankr. N.D. Ohio 1990). MBK expects that SIPC's recommendation shall be filed with this Court separately.

WHEREFORE, MBK respectfully requests that this Court enter an Order:

- a. Granting this Application; and
- b. Releasing \$5,870.25 to MBK from the Holdback for prior compensation periods;
and
- c. Granting MBK such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 6, 2021

Monfrini Bitton Klein

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EXHIBIT A

SUMMARY OF INTERIM COMPENSATION FOR MBK

	TOTAL COMPENSATION
Holdback for Prior Compensation Periods:	\$11,740.49
Release of the Holdback:	\$5,870.25
Total to be Paid:	\$5,870.25